

**Amendment to the claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-identified application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Canceled)
2. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 10 wherein the first vector is provided in a host cell.
3. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 10 wherein the first vector is selected from a retroviral vector, a plasmid, a cosmid, an adeno-associated viral vector, and an adenoviral vector.
4. (Original) The system of claim 3 wherein the first vector comprises a pseudo-type retroviral vector.
5. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 10 wherein the first vector further comprises an RNA export element.
6. (Original) The system of claim 5 wherein the RNA export element comprises a woodchuck mRNA processing enhancer.
7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 10 wherein the first vector comprises a retroviral promoter selected from a bovine leukemia virus promoter, a human T-lymphocyte virus promoter, a simian immunodeficiency virus promoter, and a caprine virus promoter.
8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 10 wherein the Tax polypeptide comprises a polypeptide selected from a bovine leukemia virus Tax polypeptide, a human T-lymphocyte virus Tax polypeptide, a simian immunodeficiency virus Tax polypeptide, and a caprine virus Tax polypeptide.

10. (Previously Presented) An inducible gene expression system comprising: a first vector comprising at least one retroviral promoter; at least one factor to induce the retroviral promoter, the at least one factor comprising a Tax polypeptide that comprises amino acids 48-60 of an HIV Tat protein; and at least one gene product expressed in proportion to retroviral promoter induction.

11. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 10 wherein the Tax polypeptide comprises the amino acids 48-60 of the HIV Tat protein fused to a terminus of said Tax polypeptide.

12. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein the Tax polypeptide comprises the amino acids 48-60 of the HIV Tat protein substituted for the corresponding amino acids of said Tax polypeptide.

13. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 10 wherein the at least one factor is provided exogenously.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 10 wherein the Tax polypeptide that comprises amino acids 48-60 of an HIV Tat protein is produced from an encoding nucleic acid sequence provided in a second vector.

15-42. (Canceled)

43. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 10 wherein the first vector comprises a bovine leukemia virus promoter-and the Tax polypeptide that comprises amino acids 48-60 of an HIV Tat protein is a bovine leukemia virus Tax polypeptide that comprises amino acids 48-60 of an HIV Tat protein.